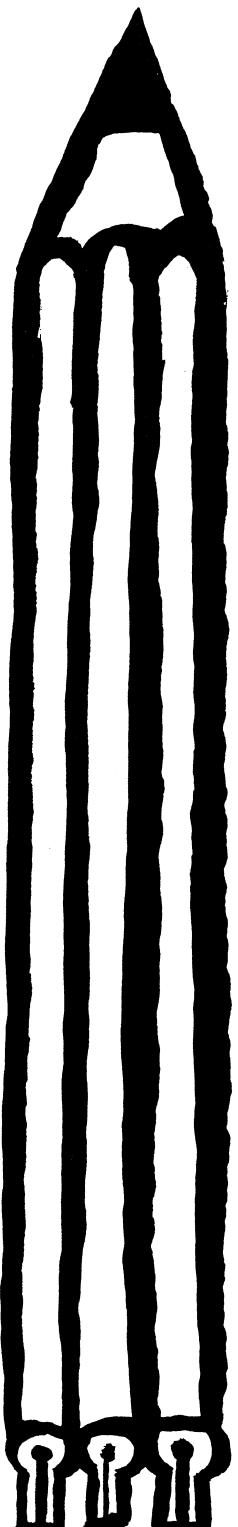


Dear Reader,

It was my great pleasure to receive the email from EATCS on the US President Trump's travel ban, almost right after his executive order. I appreciate this timely decision of EATCS President and Vice Presidents issuing such a legitimate comment. In fact, we did have a great news again, just a couple of hours ago, that reinstate of the travel ban requested by the US government was rejected by the appeals court. Since his inauguration, there have been so many news on President Trump and his actions including this ban, which even affected my daily life; I am now spending much more time for online news media every day. This is obviously bad for my research.

I also have been spending a lot of time recently for writing articles targeting not IT professionals but rather general audience. Of course my topic there is algorithms and I was fully convinced that it is not easy to explain "algorithms," their goal, their quality, etc to the general audience. I cannot use big-O notations, competitive ratios, or lower bounds. Nevertheless this is a nice occasion for me to rethink what are underlying ideas for good algorithms and to recognize that such ideas are quite common in our daily life as well. For instance, a standard technology for online algorithms is to pay "insurances" for each (greedy) action to prepare for what might happen in the future to punish the greediness. We are doing exactly the same thing in the real world.



October issues of our Bulletin usually have a lot of things: several reports of ICALP and related meetings, call for nominations, etc. I cannot deny there is a kind of reactions in February issues. Fortunately, however, our column editors did a very good job and the section is full of nice surveys in this issue. I was going to include some book introductions and reports of recent meetings, but they did not go very well; please be looking for them in the next issue. I am also considering new systems for general contributions of technical stuff. I think I wrote this before, but we must need new ideas to make it different from many existing journals and conference proceedings. Please let me know if you have anything in your mind on this matter.

*Kazuo Iwama, Kyoto
February 2017*